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The Signal



Thursday, November 10, 2005

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News UPDATE

Holiday hours

The following hours are for Veterans Day **Friday**:

Post Exchange open 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Class Six open 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Gate 1 shoppette open 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; Burger King open 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; commissary open 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Massing of colors

The Massing of the Colors ceremony is 2 p.m. **Sunday** at the Good Shepherd Chapel. For information, call John Pitts at 791-9536.

Retirement ceremony

The November retirement ceremony is 9:30 a.m. **Thursday** in Alexander Hall. For information, call John Pitts at 791-9536.

Pay office closed

The Defense Military Pay Office will be closed **Wednesday**, and from noon-4 p.m. **Nov. 18**.

For emergencies, call 791-4826.

Vendor expo

The Fort Gordon vendor expo is 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **Tuesday** at the Gordon Club. For information, call Vicki Wingo at 791-1817.

Education week

There is an education fair from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Wednesday** at Building 21606 on Barnes Avenue.

There will be a cookout, educational information, prizes and more. For information call 791-2000.

Native American Month celebration

The 15th Regimental Signal Brigade's Native American Heritage celebration is 11:45 a.m. **Nov. 21** in Alexander Hall.

Guest speaker is Staff Sgt. Weldon David Graywolf Smith. Smith is an instructor with the 447th Signal Battalion, and from the Eastern Band of Cherokee and Lumbee Tribes Of North Carolina.

For information, call Staff Sgt. Helena Buchanan at 791-2751.

Open season

The open season for enrolling or changing plans, coverage levels or types of coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits program is **Monday to Dec. 12**, with changes effective in the new plan year starting in January.

For information, call Carolyn Ellis at 791-4179.

Book fair

Freedom Park Elementary School is having a book fair from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **Monday to Nov. 18** for American Education week.

Redesign conference addresses Signal future

Kristy Davies
Signal staff

It is the beginning of the end, the end of old thinking that is.

Day one of the Signal Redesign Conference kicked off Monday at the U.S. Army Reserve Center on post, as representatives from multiple Army organizations including 3rd Infantry Division, Training and Doctrine Command, Network Enterprise Technology Command and every organization related to Signal, gathered in the drill hall.

Opening remarks were made by Brig. Gen. Randolph Strong, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commander, and Col. Tim Day, director of Combat Development, U.S. Army Signal Center. Strong welcomed everyone to the conference, but reiterated that the conference was a working conference and not a social gathering.

With the Joint Network Node having been fielded rapidly, there are still some issues that must be solved prior to the Signal Regiment moving towards Warrior Information Network-Tactical.

"We just really have to clean up the battlefield of JNN, get JNN sorted out and change our focus to the future fight," explained Day.

"We have to make sure the (organizational) structure and equipment fight the future fight but integrates with WIN-T," added Day. "What we're talking about (at this conference) is the force structure implications for JNN."

In his briefing to the representatives, Col. Jeffrey Smith, director for TRADOC Program Integration Office-Network, explained the importance of the redesign in regards to networking and "enabling the Warfighter."

"The network is commanded by the Warfighter," Smith said in an exuberant voice to the Soldiers and civilians attending the conference.

Smith proceeded with the results of LandWarNet II, lessons learned from 3rd ID and the concept of Doctrine, Organization, Training, Material, Leadership, Personnel and Facilities.

"LandWarNet II taught us that our organizational solutions had to reflect the joint nature of war," said Smith. "The fundamental purpose of the network is to enable and inform a commander, leader or Soldier to make better decisions, provide more devastating fire power and to achieve more comprehensive results on the battlefield."

See Conference, page 11



Photos by 1st Lt. Christine Moore

Welcome back

The 297th Military Intelligence Battalion received a well deserved "Welcome Home" Saturday after a 12 month deployment to Iraq, welcomed by families, friends and fellow Soldiers. While deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 297th exemplified itself by operating across all provinces in Iraq, furnishing interrogation and intelligence supporting Multi-National Force and Multi-National Corps Iraq. During the deployment, the battalion sustained itself and the Brigade headquarters by providing food service, maintenance, military police and communications support.

EEO class focuses on team building exercise

Tammy Moehlman
Signal staff

Teamwork is valuable to success and to the mission. This is why the 15th Regimental Signal Brigade held classes in team building at Augusta Technical Institute with the aid of the Equal Opportunity Office.

The classes are from the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute curriculum. The exercises are designed to encourage team interaction and to show that working together with other sections can be an asset.

"The classes are non-traditional type classes. For instance, in the last class I used children's puzzles to emphasize my point. The classes are

highly interactive," said Richard Mitchell, Equal Opportunity specialist. "The 15th Signal Brigade S-3 section approached me and wanted a 30-minute block of instruction that was 'fun, interactive and interesting.'"

Mitchell was the primary instructor for the classes and holds both an Army and Air Force Master Instructor certification. He has been training Soldiers since 1992 and has been teaching Equal Opportunity associated issues for four years.

"The first class dealt with 'Commanders intent and how various sections interpreted that intent'. The second dealt with mission accomplishment and the importance of various section's interaction in accom-

plishing those missions. The most important task any unit has is accomplishing its mission, it is the key component in fighting and winning our nation's wars," said Mitchell.

A class was held in August and another in October, during offsite training conducted by the 15th RSB. There were about 75 people in each 30-minute class.

"This is a service that has been available from post EO for quite sometime, but I am not sure many units know about it," he said. "Team building exercises are available for any Fort Gordon unit or sections who request it."

Mitchell tried to make the classes interesting and encourage team work. In an exercise, classes were split into groups

with one group representing the "brigade element." Teams were given puzzle pieces to theirs and other teams' puzzles that had been mixed up. In order to complete their puzzles the teams would have to work together and along the way learn they are all "interdependent" on each other.

The two classes were given the same questions, but resulted in different outcomes.

"Just because they're different doesn't mean it's wrong," says Mitchell about the differences. "The students were very excited and worked well together to accomplish the assigned tasks. I believe the sessions were successful - the students gave positive feedback at the conclusion of the training."

Team building classes are only one thing the Equal Opportunity Office has to offer and Mitchell encourages units to take advantage of what is available to them.

"I believe that many times when individuals hear Equal Opportunity they think 'there must be a problem,'" he said. "The truth is that EO is about education and awareness and helping to resolve issues."

"The various training topics that an EO advisor is qualified to cover are remarkable. That available training is a vast, untapped resource," Mitchell said. "EO advisors can help any commander to make his or her command better, and more successful in accomplishing their mission, if given the chance."

Security executives tour post emergency operations unit

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

Stuart Gibson marveled, but at the same time, he was saddened.

"It's state of the art. It's a shame we have to have it," said Gibson, a member of Business Executives for National Security, after he toured Fort Gordon's

mobile decontamination unit Nov. 3.

The unit has been used twice - once in January at the site of the Graniteville, S.C., chemical spill, and during an investigation of a threatening letter with suspicious powder found at the home of Savannah River Co. executive.

See BENS, page 12



Photo by Charmain Brackett

Justina Burroughs (right), describes some of the equipment used by Fort Gordon firefighters to Aimee Yrlas, deputy director of Business Executives for National Security, and Stuart Gibson, a BENS member.



Photo by Kristy Davies

CIO at PCC

Lt. Gen. Steven Boutelle, the Army's chief information officer/G-6, gave a briefing for the pre-command course in Greely Hall Nov. 3. Boutelle addressed the class on CIO/G6 and Army transformation. The course is designed to train brigade and battalion commanders and product and program managers. Boutelle briefs the course about every two months.

Soldier sentenced for being AWOL

Marla Jones
Special to the Signal

A Fort Gordon Soldier was given 21 months confinement and a bad conduct discharge Monday for desertion, being absent without leave, breaking restriction and wrongful use of marijuana.

Pvt. Stephen G. King, rear detachment, 63rd Signal Battalion, chose to be tried by the military judge alone, and

entered guilty pleas to some of the charges.

King was away from his unit without authority from Sept. 27 to Nov. 15, 2004, and again from Nov. 25, 2004 to Aug. 3, 2005.

The sentence is subject to approval by the convening authority and review by the U.S. Court of Military Appeals.

(Jones is the deputy public affairs officer here.)

VA won't forget homeless veterans

Tammy Moehlman
Signal staff

It is estimated that one-third of the homeless in the United States are veterans – about 200,000 people. To help these homeless veterans and other homeless in the Augusta area, the Department of Veterans Affairs held a “stand down” Oct. 28 at the VA Hospital on Wrightsboro Road.

The event was a joint effort between the VA and the Department of Defense to provide a helping hand to those in need.

“As this stand down reminds us, we need to ensure that we do not allow ourselves to become so busy that we lose sight of those fellow Americans who most need and earned our help, our veterans,” said Col. Karen Adams, Garrison commander, who spoke at the opening ceremony of the stand down.

“Those of us currently in uniform rightly respect and honor those who were in the ranks before us. We appreciate and understand the sacrifice they made in serving our nation...there are many veterans who met adversity and need a helping hand,” she said. “Thankfully, under the lead of the department of Veteran Affairs, there are many who are sending that helping hand.”

According to the Department of Veteran Affairs, many veterans are close to homelessness. Many lack support from family and friends and are living in bleak conditions. The number of homeless Vietnam era veterans exceeds the number of servicemembers killed in the war. Now there are a growing number of Desert Storm veterans in the homeless population.

The Department of Veteran Affairs also reports that “almost all homeless veterans are male (about 3 percent are women), the vast majority are single, and most come from poor, disadvantaged back-



Photo by Tammy Moehlman

Soldiers from the 551st Signal Battalion helped distribute clothing and other goods at the Veterans Affairs Hospital stand down Oct. 28. The stand down was designed to assist homeless veterans in the Augusta area.

grounds. Homeless veterans tend to be older and more educated than homeless non-veterans. But similar to the general population of homeless adult males, about 45 percent of homeless veterans suffer from mental illness and (with considerable overlap) slightly more than 70 percent suffer from alcohol or other drug abuse problems. Roughly 56 percent are African American or Hispanic.”

“Certainly we had a lot of Vietnam veterans for a while and people thought they were over represented but the figures didn't fair out,” said Kathleen Scott, homeless coordinator at the VA in Augusta.

“We are seeing a lot of younger ones coming through now from the Gulf War that we hadn't seen before, and a lot of it is based on the economics and the job market. We're also seeing a larger percentage of female homeless veterans,” she said.

they can take care of their partners and children,” Scott said.

She believes that the biggest misconception about the homeless is “That they want to be homeless.” She says that education of the public is the biggest thing in changing this misconception and getting more help for those in need.

“One of the big things we are looking for is employment, so the homeless programs work very close with the department of labor and the vocational rehab services,” said Scott. “We figure about 1,750 (homeless in the Augusta area) and that changes from year to year.”

The local VA, with the help of volunteers, Fort Gordon Soldiers, churches, community agencies and a wide range of veteran organizations, worked to aid the local homeless.

“All the volunteers who are here, all the donations that have been made, which are countless donations, all the food was purchased through donated funds,” said Ann Arnold, coordinator for the Voluntary Services Program at the VA.

“Even with all the hurricanes, and people have just been asked and asked over and over again, but they just don't ever stop giving. They just always have some more donations they can bring

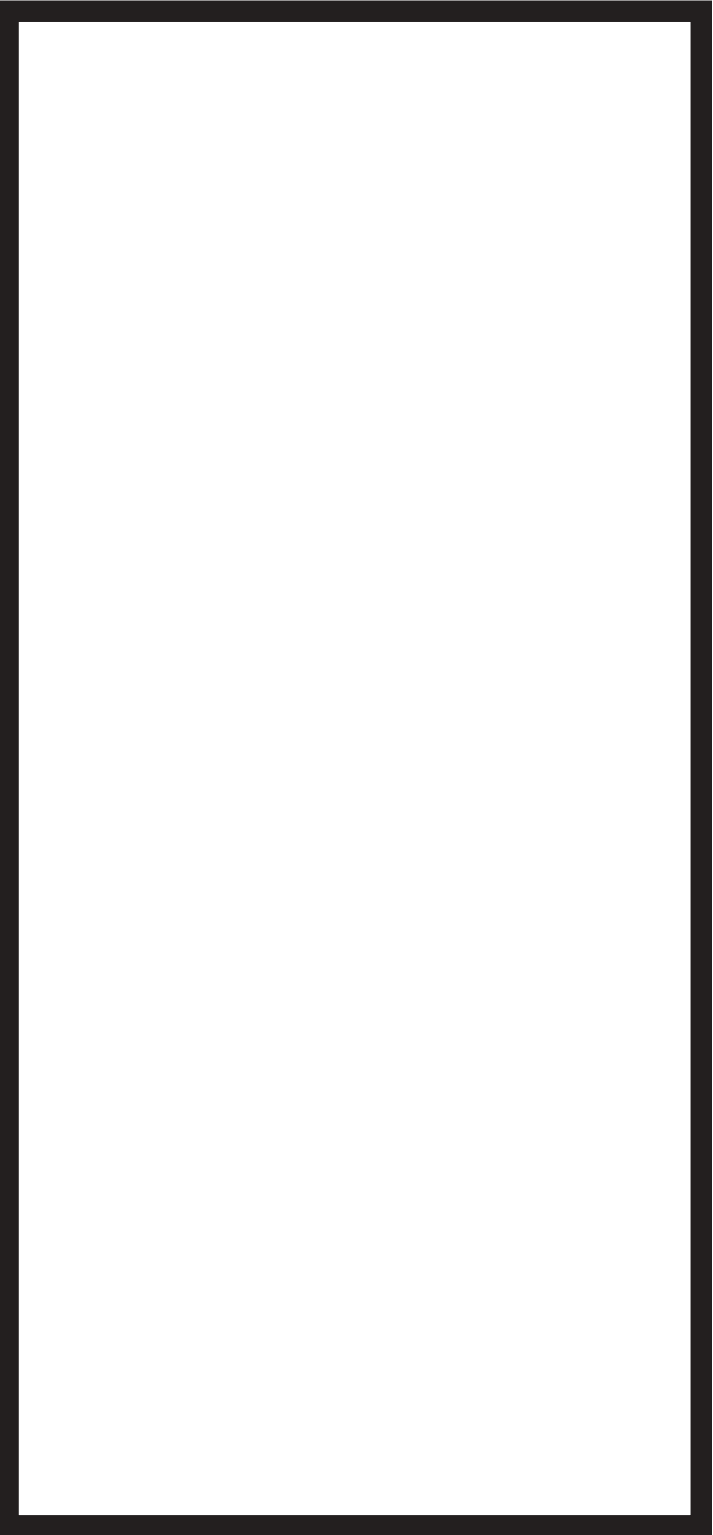
or something they can give us, because these are our local people and we need to take care of our local veterans and our local homeless,” she said.

“This is so important because we know that homelessness is a problem and it's time we just tried to... help

them in anyway we can,” Arnold said.

The VA erected booths on a field behind the hospital and welcomed the crowd of hundreds who came for assistance.

See VA, page 11



Ceremony honors fallen foreign soldiers

Larry E. Edmond
Signal staff

An unseasonably hot sun splashed the field where some 150 mourners gathered Oct. 27 for the annual wreath laying ceremony at the World War II prisoners of war burial site.

Only a hint of a breeze stirred across the plot on the northwest corner of Fort Gordon as the fading notes of taps mixed with the final report from a 21 gun salute.

Accompanied by the Signal Corps Band, an honor detail and color guard rendered a solemn ceremony led by Fort Gordon officials, and local and international dignitaries representing Germany and Italy who placed memorial wreaths at the World War II grave site. One Italian soldier and 21 German soldiers are interred at the site.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Randolph P. Strong, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, stood to explain the reason for the gathering. This annual event is held in connection with the German memorial Volkstrauer Tag, literally “a people’s mourning day.”

“This is a combination of our own Veterans Day, Memorial Day and the German observance of their people who died during World War I and World War II,” he said.

“It is very appropriate for us to remember this German holiday, for it adds to the significance of our own holidays. It also adds to our resolve to never forget any victims of past wars. By this ceremony we not only honor those soldiers who dutifully served their own nations but also we commemorate the healing of wounds suffered by both sides in history’s bloodiest war,” Strong said.

During World War II more than 500,000 prisoners of war were brought to and distributed to 150 detention sites and 500 prisoner of war camps around the country. More than



Photo by Larry Edmond

During the annual German-Italian memorial service Monica Reuter (left), German Consulate representative, places a wreath at the World War II gravesite of German prisoners of war, while Pfc. Barbara DuBois, and Lt. Col. Peter Bauer, German Army Liaison Staff member, render hand salutes.

400,000 were German and 50,000 were Italian. Camps were established from Maine to California. From 1943 until 1945 prisoners were housed at Camp Gordon. Those prisoners of war buried here died of natural or accidental causes while serving in POW camps in South Carolina or Georgia.

“In a very real sense the soldiers who are buried here today helped to heal the rift between our nations. That healing led to a powerful alliance that today works together in our newest campaign to end the war on terrorism,” Strong said. “So today we honor clearly those who did not die in vain. Had these soldiers survived the war and had been able to see how our world has developed, I am confident that they would have applauded the alliance and the close friendship that has developed between our nations.”

Monica Reuter, German Consulate representative, echoed the sentiment.

“This ceremony has become a well established tradition in the calendar of events. This is a significant gesture of the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon to offer this dignified setting to celebrate Germany’s remembrance day as a day of mourning,” she said. “Year after year we spend on ceremonies because it is sad that one dies twice if forgotten. So we will not forget. We are here today to remember and re-enforce the memory of all the lives lost and all past sufferings.”

Reuter was one of two German officials who placed a wreath at the burial site.

Present to place a wreath at the grave of the Italian soldier buried at the site was Angela Turner, Italy Consulate representative. Turner said despite

past differences friendship can grow. She indicated that Italy is today a loyal friend of the United States with the highest contribution of troops to the coalition engaged in the Middle East. “Just like Germany we will always remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of their country,” Reuter said.

Strong added “today’s gathering is a positive sign that the scars of war can in fact be healed.” He also said it is important to continue having ceremonies like this. “We must show how countries that at one time had disagreements can come together, become allies and be unified as friends in the world.”

On this day, at this time, that objective was clearly demonstrated. Americans, Germans and Italians broke bread, remembered their fallen and celebrated their friendship.

Vets share war, peace stories

Larry Edmond
Signal staff

RETIRED AFTER 25 YEARS OF NAVY SERVICE, retired Chief Petty Officer Jimmy Farris said he vividly remembers his first combat experience near Saigon in February 1968.

On his first day in Vietnam he recalls standing in the chow line when, “the next thing I know a rocket comes in and everybody around, including me, was looking for a hole to jump in...I wasn’t very hungry after that,” Farris chuckled.

Born and reared in Augusta, Farris served in the Navy from October 1955 until his retirement from active duty in February 1980. Serving as an electrician, most of his duty was aboard sea-going ships including his first tour aboard the USS Yorktown 1956 to 1959, which he joined after he graduated from “A School” in San Diego. The Yorktown is now a museum harbored in Charleston, S.C.

Farris says a military career is the most exciting career move anyone can make.

“You know it’s up to everyone’s personal choice, but for me the military was great. I always had a good time, no matter where I went around the world,” he said. In addition to his primary work as an electrician, Farris worked two tours as a recruiter and was assigned temporary active duty to play baseball.

During his 25-year membership with Veterans of Foreign Wars, Farris has served three times as VFW Post 192 commander, leading the more than



Photo by Larry Edmond

Charlie Bailey (left), a retired Marine, and Jimmy Farris, a retired Sailor, carry on light banter outside the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 192 lodge in Augusta.

600-member organization in its mission of community service.

PROUDLY WEARING THE MONIKER OF MUSTANG, Charlie Bailey has many memories about the military. His career spanned the period from 1952 when he left West Virginia at age 16 to become a buck private in the Marine Corps, until he retired as a captain in 1973.

While he was too young to go into combat when the Korean conflict was raging, he vividly remembers Vietnam,

where he served two tours on duty in 1965-1966 and 1968-1969.

Two things come quickly to mind as he recalls his career. Serving with an intelligence gathering unit of seven to 10 men conducting special operations, he remembers going out on a patrol only to have one of his team members mauled by a Bengal tiger.

“We had more enemies than just those carrying guns,” he said. He also recalls that the

Vietnam War was unpopular and that Americans did not support the troops.

“The lack of support from home was something that I will never forget,” he said. “Now we have people in places like Iraq and we should be supporting those troops with everything that we have. This is what the military is all about. The generals and military should be allowed to win the war, support the troops and get them home with the honor and rewards they deserve.”

Two of his three children have followed Bailey into the military. One son completed a three-year tour in the Marine Corps and one son retired after 21 years in the Air Force. “The military is absolutely a great career for a young person,” he said. “It makes a man or woman out of a person.”

A 12-year member of the VFW post, Bailey said he wants to debunk the myths about the VFW as a social organization.

“We are service oriented, providing help first and foremost to veterans and servicemembers. And we always have Christmas and Thanksgiving events for children and the families of veterans.”

The Post has adopted the Blue Goose military retirement home, regularly providing activities and services to residents. Recently two trailer loads of supplies were donated by the post to hurricane survivors.

(This is part one of six part series detailing memories and experiences of Veterans from the Korean War through the Bosnian conflict.)

Kids post patriotic program

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

Children from Richmond County schools celebrated patriotism Nov. 1 through a program called “Proud to be an American” at Paine College’s Gilbert-Lambuth Chapel.

The program is just one activity the school children take part in during the school year that focuses on patriotism, said Virginia Bradshaw, assistant superintendent for instruction in Richmond County.

Through song, dance and drama, the students highlighted important events in America’s history.

Students from Lake Forest Hills Elementary School spotlighted famous Americans and their accomplishments. Among them were Walter Hunt, who invented the safety pin, Dolly Madison, the wife of president James Madison, and baseball great Babe Ruth.

Children from T. Harry Garrett Elementary School presented a skit on the U.S. Constitution and celebrated it as the forefathers might have by performing the Virginia Reel.

Warren Road Elementary School students sang “United We Stand: An American Medley,” and students from Butler High School sang “God Bless America” and a medley of “Nobody Knows the Trouble I See/Kum by Yah.”

Cadets from the Youth Challenge Academy at Fort Gordon participated in the ceremony by presenting the colors and retired Lt. Col. Janet Zimmerman, YCA commander, led the pledge of allegiance.

Also, Rita Bradley, Freedom Park Elementary School principal and honorary chair of the “Proud to be an American Initiative,” presented three awards.

Pat Buchholz, Fort Gordon’s strategic management officer, was honored for her work in getting the Richmond County school constructed on post.

Only 10 days after she started working in the garrison office in February 1995, Buchholz received her first assignment and seven years later, it was fulfilled in the opening of the school, said Bradley.

Illness kept Buchholz from attending the ceremony.

Others honored for their patriotic contributions included Maj. Luther Price, JROTC Army instructor, who has worked at Hephzibah High School and Richmond Academy, and Lounelle Beecher, social studies coordinator for Richmond County.

Freedom Park Elementary School was one of 18 schools in the county to be recognized for “their outstanding contributions to the ‘Proud to be an American’ initiative,” said Bradley.

Vet Day events slated

Fort Gordon will support 18 Veterans Day activities across the two-state area.

Veterans Day honors those who have served in the military services of the United States. Activities include:

● 7 p.m. **today:** Col. Lori Sussman, 15th Regimental Signal Brigade commander, will speak and unveil two monuments honoring Soldiers at the Warren County Court House in Warrenton, Ga. For information call (706) 465-2171.

● 9 a.m. **Friday:** Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home, 1101 15th St. Fort Gordon’s support includes the Signal Corps Band, Joint Service Color Guard, and the speaker will be Col. Jeffrey Smith, director, Training and Doctrine Command Program Integration Office for Networks. For information call 721-2387.

● 10 a.m. **Friday:** The annual Veterans Day parade on Broad Street in Augusta, with the Signal Corps Band, Joint Service Color Guard, battalion

sized marching unit from the 15th RSB; military grand marshal is Brig. Gen. Randolph Strong, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commander. For information call 738-4203 or 791-7857.

● 11 a.m. **Friday:** Augusta/CSRA Area Veterans Activities Office ceremony at the Veterans’ of All Wars Monument (corner of Fourth and Broad streets). Fort Gordon support includes a bugler, the Joint Service Color Guard, firing squad and speaker Col. Ronald Bouchard, Fort Gordon’s deputy commander. For information, call Luther Price at 737-7168.

● 1 p.m. **Friday:** Heroes’ Overlook, 10th Street and Riverwalk in Augusta, the observance will feature a special emphasis on Vietnam veterans. Fort Gordon’s support includes the Signal Corps Band, Joint Service Color Guard, firing squad; Brig. Gen. Strong will also attend. For information call 738-3885.

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

Educated Soldiers make stronger Army

Renee Hunt Finley
Special to the Signal

The Education and Services Division is celebrating American Education Week Nov. 14 to 18.

This year's theme, "A Stronger Army Begins with Educated Soldiers!" is compatible with the National Education Association's theme, "A Stronger America Begins with Great Public Schools." Supporting AEW acknowledges our continued commitment to provide the tools for educational opportunities to our community, tools that are essential to meet the challenges of leadership today and tomorrow.

The Education and Services Division is a key player in the Army's efforts to prepare our Soldiers and civilians in the workforce as a knowledge and capabilities based force using information and technology. We are dedicated to providing life-long learning that provides the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to achieve and maintain a quality workforce.

Tuition assistance is available to Active and Reserve servicemembers who meet eligibility requirements. The Department of Defense authorizes the Soldier approximately \$4,500 for tuition costs each fiscal year. CLEP/DANTES are also available to servicemembers free of charge, these examinations result in obtaining college credit with no classroom attendance.

Various MOS qualified jobs also equate to college credit. The benefits of enrolling in collegiate level courses are endless. We are preparing servicemembers for success today as well as post-Army.

The Education and Services Division offers a variety of programs to assist Soldiers and civilians with pursuing and achieving

ing their collegiate and professional goals. The Education and Services Division located here serves as the liaison for more than a dozen colleges and universities offering the associate, baccalaureate degrees and certificate programs.

Graduate study by classroom or distance learning is also an option for students interested in pursuing a post-graduate degree. No longer tied to the traditional classroom delivery, Soldiers



Photo by Larry Edmond

Spc. James Hankins and Spc. Joe Bish, 249th General Hospital, take a test at the Education Center on Barnes Avenue.

can now earn their degree through distance learning.

Program delivery is designed to assist Soldiers affected by busy career and personal obligations.

One Soldier shared his experience.

"I did not have an opportunity to finish high school," said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Bass. "I received my GED during my Basic Training Phase. I wanted to prove to myself that I could obtain a college degree. I believe that my education will prepare my family and me for retirement.

"Graduating from college was the greatest feeling, now I am proud to respond when asked what is your level of education. I can state that I am an eArmyU, Central Texas College graduate, currently pursuing a bachelors degree with Thomas Edison University."

eArmyU is an innovative e-learning program that enables Soldiers to work toward college degrees and certificates anytime, anywhere. Soldier-students may select from more than 147 certificate and degree programs from a home institution while taking courses across 29 regionally accredited colleges and universities. Regardless of your duty station, if eligible, you can participate in eArmyU.

For more information on eArmyU, log onto www.earmyu.com.

Your Education Center staff is ready to arm servicemembers and civilians with the armor of education for a "Strong Army and America!"

Join us as we celebrate American Education Week. There is an education fair at Eisenhower Army Medical Center from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday; and "Spirit Day" open house and cookout at the Education Center, Building 21606, 741 Barnes Ave., from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday.

Feedback...

Do you think an educated Soldier helps build a stronger Army?

By Tammy Moehlman



Yes I do think they do. The Army understands that the more education Soldiers have the more valuable assets they are to the fighting forces and to the country as a whole.

1st Lt. Jerry Peebles
Student Detachment
Fort Jackson



Yes I do believe that educated Soldiers do make a stronger Army. They make better decisions, smarter decisions both in war time and in peace time. With the technology being so advanced nowadays, it takes an educated Soldier in order to effectively complete the mission.

Sgt. 1st Class Christine Shedrick
HHC 15th Signal Brigade



Of course I think that education is important. Knowledge is power. Along with power, job advancements and of course self gratification.

Sylvia Thomas
Augusta Tech Student



Yes an educated Marine makes for a better Marine Corps. Reason being they can better read, write and execute a plan with proficiency.

Staff Sgt. Melissa Hazen
Marine Corps Detachment



Yes absolutely. The more education people have the better decisions they can make, whether they are in the civilian world or active duty population.

Hunter Sahler
Contract social worker



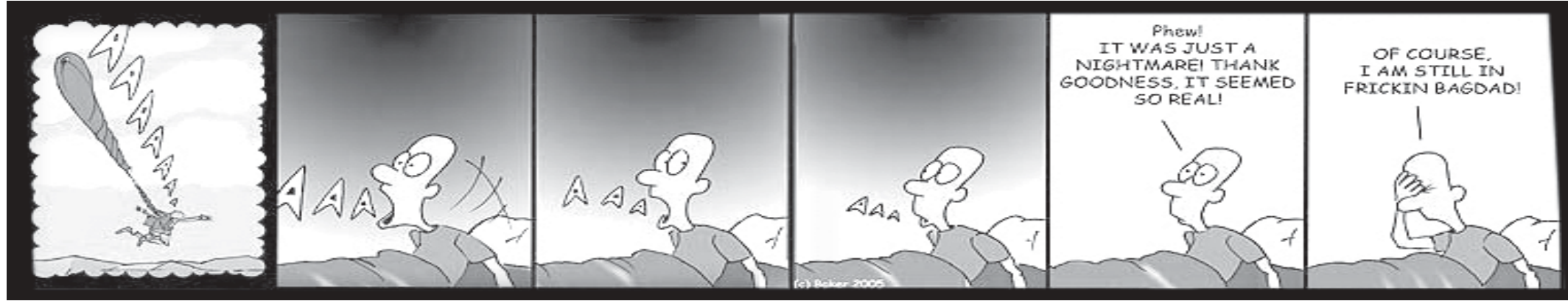
Definitely. An educated Soldier understands and asks questions; is able to analyze; is able to make decisions in life and death situations. That is what Soldiers have to do in today's life and times.

Jim Zills
Education Services Officer

Private Murphy

'Rude Awakening'

By Mark Baker



The Signal

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Marriage of Mr. & Mrs. Army

Tammy Moehlman
Signal staff

One of the biggest issues for dual military couples is literally an issue of geography; how to get stationed together. Other strains are the demands and requirements of their jobs and raising a family. One couple on Fort Gordon deals with these struggles everyday and works to keep their dual military careers and family together.

“For the first year he was at a different installation, Fort Eustis. He deployed from there. And while I was pregnant he was gone and I didn’t know if he would ever be able to get to Fort Gordon. So it took a lot of working with our branch managers and begging and pleading to get him stationed on Fort Gordon, so that we could be together as a family,” said Capt. Gina Thomas, Brigade S-1, 15th Signal Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Company. Gina has been married to Capt. Christopher Thomas, the rear detachment commander for the 63rd Signal Battalion for three years, and she understands the difficulties that dual military couples face, especially when children are added into the equation. The couple enrolled in the Married Army Couples Program as soon as they were married, but were told the Army had up to a year to get them stationed together.

“They try to get you together sooner than that, but they have up to a year to move things around and accommodate you that way. Some people get what they want, some people don’t,” said Gina.

While the couple was apart Gina had to take on all the responsibilities of the household and raising the children, in addition to her duties as a commander. The separation caused difficulties and strain on the family of four, with another on the way. Gina’s two children were still getting to know their new stepfather and it was difficult with him away. Their youngest child was also born while Chris was deployed. For Gina this was difficult emotionally.

“The stress of raising kids is hard enough for two people, but when you are by yourself not having any family nearby it’s very difficult. In addition I was a commander at the time and so not only did I take care of my own children but I’m trying to take care of my Army family as well. It was a challenge,” reflected Gina.

“That was primarily the hardest part for me, not having someone there to take the slack when I wanted a break.” To add to these stresses, Gina had to move the family to Fort Gordon and find them a home.

They kept in touch and the relationship together through e-mails. Gina would tell Chris about the kid’s first day of school and other things they were up to such as the house hunt. She also sent him lots of pictures and videos.

“She did a lot of videos, especially after Julie was born. Even the birth, she had a friend record it,” said Chris. “Being away you are working all the time so of course that’s stressful, but realizing Gina’s got a lot going on and there’s nothing I can do about it (was hard). Including moving, taking care of the family, her command; so not being able to do anything and knowing that she had a lot on her plate and was very stressed...plus, of course not seeing the birth of our child; that’s definitely a hard, hard thing.”

Chris spent the first six months of his daughter Julie’s life away and watching her crawl for the first time on a video clip.

“She was six months old before he had ever seen her. So she had to learn who her daddy was,” said Gina.

A lot of families have trouble finding childcare, but with the office hours of a military career times two, the task can turn into a tactical maneuver.

Gina and Chris have tried many things to cover their childcare needs, with some methods working better than others.

“I had invited my younger sister to stay with me for a while and that worked out well. She was able to help me out a lot. She was able to provide care for my children

and be family support that I didn’t have, and so I really appreciated her being able to do that and take time out of her life to come all the way across the country to stay with me for a while,” said Gina. “A lot of people don’t have that, so I was very lucky.”

Not everyone has family that can or wants to take time out of their life to help with child care. When Chris got back from his deployment, Gina’s sister went home, and the couple had to find a new solution for child care. Both had demanding jobs that required work outside of the regular nine to five day that most caregivers provide.

“It’s not easy...the most successful couples I have seen who have stayed active duty when they had kids committed themselves to having a nanny. Other than that it is almost impossible to maintain,” said Maj. Harvey Hennington, Chaplain at the Family Life Center “Especially if you’re talking about officers or senior enlisted personnel, which inevitably people get to be sooner or later, because what happens is, especially in this day and age, it’s a given that you are going to deploy.

“And again, inevitably, one will deploy and come back and then the other will deploy and you’ve got this continual cycle,” Hennington said.

Hennington and his wife were dual military until their first child was born; it was then they decided she would stay home and be the primary caregiver. The choice was not hard for the Henningtons, but it can be for others.

The Thomases both enjoy their military careers and work hard to keep both their family and their careers going. They tried a nanny at first but realized that isn’t always an easy answer.

“We had a nanny for a little while and it did not work out....it was a great idea. When it’s your nanny that’s sick it’s a different situation you’re in, so we would have to ask friends to watch them, and of course it’s at the last minute,” said Chris. “Currently we have day care and that works out for the most part best, between day care and babysitters.”



See Dual Military, page 12

Villagers get medical aid in embattled Afghan province

Staff Sgt. Jacob Caldwell
Army News Service

ZABUL PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Coalition and Afghan doctors conducted a Village Medical Outreach mission Oct. 20-25 in embattled Zabul Province, offering some much-needed aid to three different villages and the surrounding areas.

“Our number one purpose is to help the people,” said Capt. Joshua Gaspard, Headquarters and Headquarters Company executive officer for the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), “We provide medical support and hence the title, Village Medical Outreach, but we bring other assets.

“We did bring a mechanic and we were able to help the ANA and the ANP on some of their vehicles, but the number one thing is to get out there and try to help the populace,” said Gaspard.

Gaspard has experience running the VMOs in Zabul Province, this being the fourth.

Over the span of the four VMOs, the missions have covered the majority of Zabul Province: Atghar, Zanjhir, and Argandahb Valley being the last three areas needing coverage.

Every mission has difficulties inherent in it, this VMO mission being no exception.

“If you were to look across the board, for the number of individuals involved, you would probably have the same number of (military occupational specialties),” said Gaspard. “As an infantry officer, it’s normally pretty easy. I’ve got a bunch of 11Bs and I say ‘Let’s go take the hill.’ For these guys you’ve got every MOS you could possibly imagine and we try to integrate them together to build a winning team.”

Different jobs bring different perspectives on the different problems. Security of the VMO



Staff Sgt. Jacob Caldwell

Spc. Melanie Williams, Company C, 173rd Support Battalion (Airborne) prepares to pull an Afghan man’s remaining tooth during a Village Medical Outreach mission Oct. 21 in Atghar, a small village in Zabul Province Afghanistan.

site was the primary concern for Staff Sgt. Jeremy Carey, 2-503rd and mission noncommissioned officer in charge.

The primary security concern being the proper flow of people in and out of the site.

Having an experienced team run the missions has paid dividends in lessons learned.

“A problem that we have had is transferring equipment from one location to the next,” said Carey, “We have eliminated that by putting out a basic packing list and consolidating everything into small boxes that we can load onto Gators (small four-wheel drive vehicles).”

This mission had a different feel to it, probably because of Ramadan, according to Gaspard. “People are a little more tired and a little hungrier and the populace is just a little

irritated at life right now.”

“We started out each day a little slow. Normally at the beginning of the day we have 100 males, 50 children and 20 females waiting, whereas here we opened up and didn’t have anybody. They slowly trickled in.”

While the crowds were smaller than usual, they did eventually file in with doctors treating approximately 500 men, women and children every day, according to Maj. John Drobnica, a doctor from the 46th Medical Detachment, Texas National Guard unit.

The doctors have seen a commonality in the ailments they have treated.

“Most of the problems that we see are abdominal or stomach discomfort probably because of the food source,” said Drobnica.

Headaches and joint pain also top the list, according to Drobnica.

The lifestyle, environment, and malnutrition are the main culprits.

“They have poor nutrition, and they are an agrarian society and they work their bottoms off,” said Drobnica.

A strong effort was made to get Afghan doctors involved in this mission for the purpose of getting local people used to seeing Afghan doctors and also to be able to refer difficult cases to local hospitals, according to Drobnica.

“The goal over time is for us to be a supporting force and not the delivery force for health care,” said Drobnica.

(Caldwell serves with Combined Task Force Bayonet Public Affairs.)

My journey in the sandbox

Chaplain (Capt.)
Alan M. Irizarry

551st Signal Battalion

Three months ago I came back from a deployment where I was attached to ARCENT-QA living at Qatar. During that 11 month deployment I provided chaplain coverage for Saudi Arabia and Baghdad.

The experiences I had there were extremely rewarding and I learned the true nature of the American Soldier. In every location I encountered true leaders that were doing their best to accomplish the mission with which they were entrusted. They worked as a team looking out for each other, as good battle buddies, regardless of whether they were uniformed servicemembers or civilian contractors.

Their first goal was always mission accomplishment. As I traveled around providing pastoral care I supported Soldiers who were recovering from battle fatigue, but in every instance never failed to do their duty. Most of all they respected each other and were respected by the local nationals.

There was a strong sense of honor of being an American Soldier. Each one had been under fire and tested. I can say after many counseling sessions I was impressed by their integrity and commitment to mission accomplishment.

As for their spiritual growth, I am a witness of their great faith and how their faith sustained them and increased during their months of deployment. Our Installation Ministry Team developed many programs for the commander that were accepted and appreciated by our troops. Through these programs they were able to grow and mature in the spirit.

Every week they came

expecting something from our chaplains. Some of the testimonies of our Soldiers that had to return home was that they had rediscovered God in a new way that they never thought they could. I can say their deployment was a real spiritual retreat and was one of spiritual renewal.

This deployment gave me a greater understanding and appreciation of the legacy of Gen. George S. Patton who commanded the troops of the Third Army. Pure and strong are our Army Values when combined with God as the center.

Many times I have watched the “Patton” movie and I have read several articles about him. But during this deployment I understood why his legacy and his spirit prevails in our troops.

For those who have been deployed I understand and know what you have experienced. For those who will be deployed, I would like to share some advice. Keep training physically, mentally, technically, and especially spiritually.

Fort Gordon has many schoolhouses which train Soldiers, and many Soldiers will be deployed soon. I understand this causes some concern for our Soldiers and their families. Remember that we are a nation blessed by God and we are in his care. Faith is a matter of trust. Embrace the call you have received by God to serve this great nation that we all love.

I have a final word of gratitude for my past unit, the 442nd Signal Battalion. They gave me the opportunity to minister to our troops in the sandbox. Even though I was deployed, the support and care I received from my commander and the whole battalion was the reason I was successful. They gave me the sense that I belong to a wonderful family called the United States Army.

Freedom Team Salute recognizes Army family

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – A retired captain in the Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps now shares something in common with the Georgia Power Company president and CEO.

Both have been recently recognized with a Freedom Team Salute Commendation, thanking them for their service to the U.S. Army and the critical role they play as members of the Army family.

“In these demanding times, we are all Soldiers for freedom,” said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker. “Army veterans have served this nation with honor and dignity, and Freedom Team Salute is a way to recognize them and show just how much we appreciate the legacy of loyal service they have passed on to this generation of Soldiers.

“Additionally, the support of families and employers gives our Soldiers strength and security while they are protecting our nation,” Schoomaker said of recognizing Army spouses such as Keitgen and companies that employ Guard and Reserve Soldiers such as Georgia Power.

Through Freedom Team Salute, anyone can nominate a U.S. Army veteran for a commendation, and active duty, Army National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers can nominate their parents and spouses. Guard and Reserve Soldiers can additionally nominate their employers. Commendations include a certificate of appreciation and personalized letter of thanks from the Secretary of the Army and Army Chief of Staff, in addition

to an official U.S. Army pin.

David Rodriguez, decorated Vietnam War veteran and commander of the American GI Forum, an organization for Hispanic veterans of the Army, received his Freedom Team Salute Commendation during the program’s launch May 2.

“When I saw the one sergeant present the pin to his wife, or the young sergeant to his parents, it almost brought tears to my eyes,” Rodriguez said. “We need to recognize what’s going on in the United States and show the people in the community that the military, the Army, knows and cares about the sacrifices they make.”

U.S. Army Reserve Soldier Sgt. 1st Class Marcus Gould was one of two Soldiers who nominated the Georgia Power CEO for his commendation. “Whether I was lacing my shoes for work or lacing my boots for duty, I was always shown that I had support, genuine concern and pride from my employers that wherever I was, they were there as well.”

“Freedom Team Salute is a small program but an important program,” said Col. Bruce Kramme, the program’s director. “I personally feel a sense of urgency to reach out to the Army family and in particular Army veterans to honor their call to duty and their contributions to the American way of life. We are rapidly losing our military heritage...often times without having taken the time out to ensure our veterans know how very humbled we are of their role in American history.”

Kramme’s comments reflect that the U.S. veteran population is rapidly aging,



Courtesy photo

Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey presents the first Freedom Team Salute Commendation to David Rodriguez, commander of the American GI Forum, at the program’s launch.

and the fact that Freedom Team Salute hopes to not only issue commendations to Army veterans and Soldiers’ support networks, but also encourage the sharing of the Army legacy.

“Freedom Team Salute is a tangible way for the Army to say thanks,” Kramme said, “but it also exists as a platform through which the Army can tell its story, so that the heroic acts of our veterans and the courageous commitment to the mission that exists throughout our Army family will not go untold.”

Family programs remain Army priority

Tim Hipps

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – More than \$200 million has been earmarked this fiscal year for Army family programs.

“We’ve been pushing this for years and it’s gotten better and better every year,” said Lt. Gen. Franklin L. Hagenbeck, deputy chief of staff, Army G-1, one of numerous speakers during a three-day family forum Oct. 3-5.

Family readiness groups are an official program of the Department of the Army and, as an official program, commanders can now use mission funds

to support FRGs the same way they support other mission activities.

SUPPORT FAMILIES

Hagenbeck and other leaders speaking at the forum, part of the Association of United States Army annual meeting, stressed the importance of supporting Soldiers and their families during the Army’s transformation.

“Too often we focus exclusively on those of us wearing uniforms, but I will tell you that all of you in this room recognize full well that it’s much, much more than that,” Hagenbeck said. “We need in many instances to do a better

job than we do today in recognizing all the families, spouses and supporting agencies that reside inside our Army and all their components.”

SITES SUPPORT FAMILIES

Col. Dennis Dingle, director of the Army’s human resources policy directorate, oversees programs dealing with alcohol and drug abuse, rest and recuperation leave, sexual assault, mentorship, redeployment and retirement, among others.

He introduced Web sites including: www.army.mil/wellbeing, www.sexualassault.army.mil and <http://mentorship.army.mil>, among others.

“There’s so much to click on your wrist may grow tired,” said Dingle.

ONLY 10 PERCENT SEEKING R&R REIMBURSEMENT

Dingle said that as of Sept. 29, about 268,000 Soldiers have used the Rest & Recuperation Leave Program, instituted in 2003. About 40,000 Soldiers used the program before DoD started paying for flights from Dallas or Atlanta to the airport closest their homes, but only about 3,500 have sought reimbursement for air fares they purchased out-of-pocket.

“We want those (other) Soldiers to come in,” he said. “We owe them the reimbursement.”

Medal of Honor recipients featured

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

People shopping early for holiday gifts might be able to find a few treasures at the senior adult arts and crafts sale from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday at the Sand Hills Community Center, 2540 Wheeler Rd.

Sponsored by the Augusta Parks and Recreation Department, the event features hand-made crafts by area senior citizens.

For more information, call 796-5025.

PHOTOGRAPHY PRESENTATION

Congressional Medal of Honor winners are the focus of this presentation by photographer Tom Casalini.

The event is based upon Casalini's book "Ordinary Heroes" and will be at 7 p.m. Saturday at Aiken Center for the

Arts, 122 Laurens St. S.W. Reservations are required; admission is \$10.

Casalini will sign his books after the presentation. For more information, call (803) 641-9094.

JUDY TENUTA

Comedienne Judy Tenuta, the self-described "Aphrodite of the Accordion," will be in concert Saturday at the Imperial Theatre on Broad Street beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Special guest Kacey Jones will be featured; tickets are \$25.

For more information, call 722-8341.

MUSEUM PROGRAM

A Veteran's Day program will be the focus of the monthly Family Fun Day at the Augusta Museum of History.

The program is from 1-5 p.m. For more information, call 722-8454.



Photo by Paul Clayton

Farewell

The Southeast Regional Medical Command and Eisenhower Army Medical Center said goodbye to Command Sgt. Maj. Althea Dixon at a farewell luncheon Oct. 28. During the luncheon she was presented the "Keeper of the Colors" by the noncommissioned officers of the medical center. Sgt. Maj. Rolando Moore (left) represented the NCOs and presented the statute to Dixon, who was also inducted into the Service Women's Memorial in Arlington, Va., during the luncheon.

Conference

From page 1

Certain issues have arisen during the implementation of the new networking technology.

"Based on Operation Iraqi Freedom One, the Army decided to provide its maneuver force with a joint, interoperable data network. 3rd ID received the JNNs for its deployment to OIF three," explained Smith. "That allowed people to connect directly to a hub."

Smith explained the concept of DOTML-PF, the basis of restructuring Signal. A common doctrine will result in having a common way of fighting. Organizations must be prepared for future transformation and training must prepare Soldiers for an adaptable network. No one in the commercial world has the Army's requirement for near real time connectivity and information exchange.

"We need to bring in commercial technologies and train our new Soldiers on those commercial technologies to include IP," explained Smith. "We have to train on this new language of IP."

Having material which is more tailored

to the needs of communication between the Soldier and command post would allow everyone to be using information that can be shared by anyone at any location at any time, according to Smith.

Smith also briefed that the network is a complex interaction of biology and physics.

"The network itself reflects the profoundly human nature of combat," Smith explained. "We must have a (structural design) that constantly keeps up with the Warfighter."

The first step is redesigning the Signal Corps to meet the needs of the Army.

"The focus of this (conference) is to get the organizational piece correct," said Smith. "We (need to) organize all these Signal Soldiers on the battlefield so that they bring the network ever closer to the Warfighter. If we can make the Warfighter and the network largely one and the same, then we will achieve an extraordinary capability."

After Smith's briefing, conference participants were split into work groups for

the remainder of the day to work on funding, personnel, organizational and technical issues.

"We have the right (people) here and have representation of all levels," said Day. "We have people from the field to the guys who do the strategic hubs. They are tremendous professionals."

The conference continued Tuesday and Wednesday with all day work groups and a back briefing to the Council of Colonels on Wednesday. The last day for the conference is today and will consist of feedback from the work group proponents, briefings to the general officers and closing remarks.

"We've got to have network-savvy Signal officers, Soldiers, (noncommissioned officers), civilians and contractors who are able to understand the scientific and biological basis of this network well enough to influence and alter the course of an enemy's intentions," said Smith. "Approaching these issues from a DOTML-PF standpoint, our easy way of describing it, is the only comprehensive way."

VA

From page 2

The stand down provided services such as food, shelter and clothing assistance, and VA and Social Security benefits counseling, and information on a variety of other necessary services like housing, employment and substance abuse treatment.

"I'm out here trying to get some assistance with some things that I need. For one a coat and some help with employment," said Rodney Timmen, an attendee at the stand down. He thought the event is a great idea. For Timmen, employment is the hardest thing.

"They asked for volunteers so a platoon of us decided to come out and support the veterans," said Spc. Tiffany Fee, Company C, 551st Signal Battalion. Fee and others in the company helped to direct attendees and pass out clothing, among other things.

"We're out here to support the veterans. We've got a church full of folks that have been in military service and we think this is one of the good things that we can do for this community," said Lou Scales, retired military chaplain and pastor at the

Church of Our Savior, in Martinez. "I think this an excellent event. It's a wonderful way to have these folks get together, to get some of the services they desperately need, it's a wonderful thing," he said. The church also supported the event last year.

"It's about time that they (society) are helping the veterans, they're thinking about us. The whole point is that they help those of us out who need to be helped," veteran Charles Reyes-LittleEagle said. "I thought they had forgotten about us, but I was wrong."

ACUs to be sold early '06

Annette M. Fournier
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Army officials are warning Soldiers against buying imitation Army Combat Uniforms in lieu of waiting for Army-approved ACUs to arrive in stores.

Army and Air Force Exchange military clothing sales stores are scheduled to get ACUs in April, but a spokesman said they may appear sooner.

“The Army has advised AAFES to expect to start seeing ACUs in January,” said Judd Anstey, media branch manager with AAFES. “Details are still being worked out at this time.”

Some Soldiers, anxious to get the new uniforms, have bought imitation ACUs from unauthorized vendors.

Authorized uniforms made to Army specifications are produced only by government-contracted companies and will be sold through AAFES stores, officials said.

Unauthorized uniforms typically do not meet the Army’s specifications in various ways, such as appearance, usability and durability, said Bob Panichelle, product executive in the Field Clothing Branch of Defense Supply Center Philadelphia’s Clothing and Textiles Supply Chain, the organization contracting for ACU production.

“It’s extremely important for Soldiers to wait until the ACU is available in the Army military clothing sales stores before purchasing a uniform,” said Sgt. Maj. Katrina Easley, the Army’s uniform policy sergeant major, G1.

“This prevents the Soldier from purchasing a uniform that has not been manufactured in accordance with the uniform quality control program.”

Soldiers purchasing uniforms, uniform items, or heraldic items from establishments other than the Army military clothing sales stores must ensure that the items are autho-



Photo by Spc. Mike Pryor

Spc. Ronald Turner provides overwatch protection from atop a hill while other members of his platoon search a village in Mianashin, Afghanistan Oct. 21. Deploying Soldiers are the first to be issued ACUs.

riized for wear and conform to appropriate military specifications or are manufactured in accordance with the Uniform Quality Control Program or the heraldic quality control system, Easley said.

Soldiers should consult Army Regulation 670–1 for guidance.

Two ACUs by 2007

The final wear-out date for the battle dress uniforms and the desert combat uniforms is yet to be determined, said Easley. Active-duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers should have two sets of ACUs by May 1, 2007, according to AR 670–1. By May 1, 2008, all Soldiers should have four pairs each, and by April 2010, ROTC students should have four sets.

Knockoffs could threaten safety

To tell if an ACU is authorized, Soldiers should look for two tags sewn into the uniform. One tag near the collar is

printed with the size and the second tag located elsewhere on the uniform gives the government contract number identifying what company made the uniform, and care instructions, according to Program Executive Office Soldier’s Web site.

Some uniforms being made offshore at present do not contain the Identification of Friend or Foe tag, a tag which allows Soldiers to identify friendly forces at night. Buying a uniform without the tag could put a Soldier in danger, Panichelle said.

Other uniforms may contain fabric that is not in compliance with Army specs for the ACU camouflage pattern, Panichelle said, and could jeopardize the safety or security of an individual Soldier or an entire unit.

Like BDUs, ACUs have an expected wear-life of six to 12 months, and are made of

the same rip-stop fabric as the summer BDUs.

For quality control, DSCP closely monitors production at its manufacturing facilities through periodic site visits and quality inspections by specialists assigned to these facilities, Panichelle said.

If Soldiers have problems with issued ACUs, they can return the uniforms for a monetary refund or a store credit.

With imitation ACUs, there is no guarantee of the quality of materials used, location where uniforms were manufactured, or refunds for defective uniforms.

ACUs issued by priority

The official ACUs are not currently available for purchase, and at this point are still being issued on a prioritized basis, with deploying units top on the list.

For more information, see the PEO Soldiers Web site: www.peosoldier.army.mil/

BENS *From page 1*

The decontamination unit provides a first line of aid in the event of a chemical or biological incident.

People contaminated with a substance make their way through the trailer stopping at different points to be washed of the contaminants. Their clothing is placed in a bag, and they are given a Tyvek suit.

Once they’ve gone through the initial stage, people would then go to police or other authorities or for further medical care.

The demonstration of Fort Gordon’s emergency assets was one segment of the organization’s visit to the installation.

About 17 people attended the tour. Mem-

bers of BENS have taken tours of other military installations in Georgia. This was their first visit to Fort Gordon, according to Aimee Yrlas, BENS deputy director.

Organization members “are interested in national security issues,” she said.

By touring the bases and meeting Soldiers who’ve been to Iraq and Afghanistan, members can get a better grasp on the efforts that are being made in the interests of national security, she said.

And it gives business people ideas on how they can help, she said.

Other stops at Fort Gordon included a tour of the satellite communications training facility and the medical simulations

center. Members were briefed on the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade’s mission, and received an overview of the installation.

Gibson, a former Signal Corps noncommissioned officer, is currently the chief executive officer of Gibson Technical Services in Canton, Ga. The company provides design and consulting services.

He was especially interested in how much the Signal Corps has changed since he left it in 1972.

“It opens your eyes to the world today to see what life is like today,” he said.

Although he had never been to Fort Gordon, he was impressed with the base.

“It’s great,” he said.

Dual Military *From page 6*

They now realize that it takes a lot of time and dedication to search for the right person to be a nanny. The couple currently uses a sitting service when they have early morning or late evening duties.

But going to the field poses a new set of problems.

“The times when she had to go; luckily we had either a nanny or we called an early morning babysitter to help. So it’s tough, which would hurt two junior enlisted because they probably wouldn’t have as much money just to be able to have a babysitter to come in or a nanny. It is obviously a little more expensive going through a sitting service

to find someone in the morning,” said Chris.

Gina has seen the hardships of finding childcare in her own brigade and understands how challenging it is from her own experience.

“I think it makes you more sympathetic as a commander because you know what it takes and you know how hard it is. Especially for our brigade there were times when I was starting at 4:45 in the morning; that means they had to drop their kids off at four and there were some parents who couldn’t find child care at that time in the morning and ended up bringing their kids and they would leave them in

their car or do something like that while they were at PT. When we found that out we (said) ‘this is not working’ and we’re going to have to adjust what we’re doing in order to make sure that we’re not putting the safety of our Soldier’s children in jeopardy. We don’t want the Soldiers to think that they can’t do their job because they have to worry about their kids too much.

“So we changed our start times so that we wouldn’t have to worry about that anymore...and that helped a lot...or if Soldiers would come up to us and say ‘Ma’am I’ve got this problem, I can’t get my

kids into a day care on time,...then OK, fine you’re going to be a few minutes late to formation, that’s fine, I understand, take care of what you’ve got to take care of. To me it’s more important they take care of their families so that I know that they’re focused on their job,” Gina said. “If they’re at work worrying about what’s going on with their kids then they can’t do their job very well and then they’re not very much use unfortunately. We’ve got to take care of our Soldiers and make sure they can do their jobs well.”

(This is part one in a three part series addressing challenges faced by dual military couples.)

Community Events

Pay office closed

The Defense Military Pay Office will be closed **Wednesday**, and from noon-4 p.m. **Nov. 18**.

For emergencies, call 791-4826.

Vendor expo

The Fort Gordon vendor expo is 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **Tuesday** at the Gordon Club. For information, call Vicki Wingo at 791-1817.

Education week

There is an education fair from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Wednesday** at Building 21606 on Barnes Avenue.

There will be a cookout, educational information, prizes and more. For information call 791-2000.

College registration

Paine College is having pre-registration for Spring I and II terms, until **Nov. 17**; the first day of classes is Jan. 11.

For information, call 791-7979.

Ronald McDonald House

The Ronald McDonald House is celebrating its 21st anniversary from 6:30-10 p.m. **Friday**. Call 724-5901 for tickets and information.

FRG training

Quarterly Operation Ready family readiness group training will be held from 9 a.m.-noon **Nov. 30** at the Family Outreach Center. Call 791-3579 to register.

UMUC rep

The University of Maryland University College representative will be available at the Education Center, Building 21606, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

UMUC offers degrees in associate, bachelor and masters programs. For more information call 791-2000.

AMU rep

A representative from American Military University will be available from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Thursday** at the Education Center, Building 21606, to discuss educational needs.

AMU offers a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate-level degree and certificate programs. For information, contact Buddy Maertens at fmaertens@apus.edu.

Concert

The 15th Signal Brigade is sponsoring Eric Horner in concert at 6 p.m. **Dec. 3** at Barton Field; Horner sings christian and patriotic tunes.

Admission is free and the show is open to the public. For information, call Staff Sgt. William Hammond at 791-2056.

Fundraiser

The Fort Gordon Sergeants Major Association is having a fundraiser by bagging groceries from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. **Nov. 19** at the commissary. Money raised will be donated to the Fort Gordon Christmas House and Chaplain's Fund.

For information, call Sgt. Maj. Ellis Pugh at 791-4257.

Native American Month celebration

The 15th Regimental Signal Brigade's Native American Heritage celebration is 11:45 a.m. **Nov. 21** in Alexander Hall.

Guest speaker is Staff Sgt. Weldon David Graywolf Smith. Smith is an instructor with the 447th Signal Battalion, and from the Eastern Band of Cherokee and Lumbee Tribes Of North Carolina.

For information, call Staff Sgt. Helena Buchanan at 791-2751.

Holiday hours

The following hours are for Veterans Day **Friday**:

Post Exchange open 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Class Six open 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Gate 1 shoppette open 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; Burger King open 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; commissary open 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Free SAT/ACT prep

Military ID card holders may now take an SAT or ACT prep course free.

For information, go to www.MilitaryStudent.org.

Marines wanted

The Marine Corps League, a fraternity of active duty, former and retired Marines, is working to re-establish the Lt. Col. Jimmie Dyess Detachment 921 in the Augusta area.

To join or for information, call Paul Brewer at 854-1036 or e-mail jpbrewer@pcsnitrogen.com.

Open season

The open season for enrolling or changing plans, coverage levels or types of coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits program is **Monday to Dec. 12**, with changes effective in the new plan year starting in January.

For information, call Carolyn Ellis at 791-4179.

Service Club event

The Fort Gordon Service Club is having lunch at Mally's at 11:30 a.m. **Tuesday**, followed by a tour of the historic Azalea Inn Bed and Breakfast at 1:30 p.m.

Make reservations by **Nov. 11** by calling Kisha Williams at 533-7850 or Kisha.Williams@gmail.com.

Youth competition

The Augusta Symphony Guild and the Augusta Symphony will hold its annual Symphony Youth Competition

at 1:30 p.m. **Saturday** at the First Baptist Church of Augusta. The competition is free and open to the public.

For information call Sara Neal at 826-4706, or go to www.augustasympphony.org.

Ethics training

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate is offering annual ethics training, a requirement by the Secretary of the Army.

All Soldiers and Army civilian employees must attend one of the sessions by Dec. 31.

Ethics training is offered at 11 a.m. Wednesday in Darling Hall; 11 a.m. Nov. 23 and 30 in Olmstead Hall; and 11 a.m. Dec. 7 and 8 in Alexander Hall. For information, call 791-4454.

Holiday gift wrapping

The Fort Gordon Service Club is coordinating holiday gift wrapping at the PX this year. A trailer will be set up at the PX starting the day after Thanksgiving and will be available until Christmas Eve; the hours of operation will coincide with the PX's operating hours.

All organizations, clubs and FRG's on the installation are eligible to participate in this fundraising opportunity.

The group is now taking reservations on a first-come, first-served basis. To make a reservation, call Joanie Bryant at 863-2931.

Separating servicemembers


Servicemembers within one year of separating or two years of projected retirement from the military, contact the Army Career and Alumni Program.

All servicemembers leaving active duty, with more than 180 days of active service, must receive the mandated pre-separation counseling.

This counseling, which must take place no later than 90 days prior to separation, covers available transition assistance services, rights and benefits. To schedule an appointment, call 791-7333.

Fort Gordon

Command Channel



The following programs will air on the Fort Gordon Command Channel*:

- ComNET: Communications, News, Equipment, and Training (one hour) Nov. 7 to 13
- WMD Exercises – Design and Execution (one hour) Nov. 14 to 20
- Marijuana: Reading the Smoke Signals (one hour) Nov. 21 to 27
- Building a Winning Drug Case (two hours) Dec. 5 to 11
- Live Response: A WMD Interactive Discussion Program; "Post-Incident Reporting & Lessons Learned" (one hour) Dec. 12 to 18
- ComNET: Communications, News, Equipment, and Training (one hour) Dec. 19 to 25
- K9's – Keeping Criminals on a Short Leash (one hour) Dec. 26 to Jan. 1
- Knowing the Signs – Recognizing Drugs (one hour) Jan. 2 to 8

*The Fort Gordon Command Channel airs on Charter Cable Channel 13. Viewing times are 9 and 11 a.m., and 3 p.m. daily. For more information on the programs e-mail melvin.slater@gordon.army.mil.

At the Movies

The Signal Theater is open Thursday-Sunday. Shows begin at 6:30 p.m. Children 12 and over and adults are \$3.50. Children 6-11 are \$1.75. Children under 5 are free. For movie listings and times, call 791-3982.

Nov. 10-17

Thursday - Exorcism of Emily Rose (PG-13)

Friday - Serenity (PG-13)

Saturday - Yours, Mine and Ours* (PG)

Sunday - Greatest Game Ever Played (PG)

Thursday - An Unfinished Life (PG-13)

Note: Attendance at Fort Gordon's movie theater is strictly limited to authorized Post Exchange patrons.

** – Free showing.*

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Fishing tournament

A bass tournament will be held **Sunday** at Butler Reservoir from daylight to noon.

Cost is \$20 per person, \$10 for Fort Gordon Sportsman Club members with a \$5 Big Fish Pot. \$1,000 will be awarded to first place; \$50 to second place.

Call 791-5078/3317 for more information.

Turkey shoot

A turkey shoot will be held **Nov. 19** at the Tactical Advantage Sportsman's Complex/Range 14.

Hours are 1-5 p.m. Cost is \$3 a round for all participants.

The shoot is open to the public; call 791-5078 or 833-2834 for information.

Golf tournament

The Christmas House benefit golf tournament is **Nov. 18** at Gordon Lakes. Cost is \$45 and includes lunch.

Lunch begins at 11 a.m.; shotgun start at noon. All proceeds will be donated to the Fort Gordon Christmas House. For information, call Ashley Goodrum at 791-9322.

Ladies golf

The Gordon Lakes Ladies Golf Association tees off at 10 a.m. **Thursdays** at Gordon Lakes. For information, call 863-3747.

Big Buck contest

Outdoor Recreation's Big Buck Contest runs through January 2006 during the hunting season.

Hunters with a Fort Gordon hunting license can register both bucks for the year by entering once.

Cost is \$10 for FGSC members and \$20 for non-members.

First place wins a \$300 gift certificate and a free mount.

Registration will be at the Tactical Advantage Sportsman Complex, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. For information call 791-5078/3317.

Golf course

Gordon Lakes Golf Course is open daily, 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m., offering 27 holes of play and a driving range.

Memberships are available to the public.

For information call 791-2433.

EFMP bowling

Exceptional Family Member Program Bowling is held the third Monday of each month at 5 p.m.

EFMP Bowling is free for special needs family members who are enrolled in EFMP, and is held at Gordon Lanes.

Free shoe rental and door prizes available; cost is \$1.25 per game. For information call Amos Demps at 791-3579.

Paintball course

The Paintball course behind The Courtyard is open 3 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday, each day until dark.

Group rates available; call 228-5540 for more information.

Cadets salute Heisman winner

Spc. Ben Cossel

Army News Service

AKRON, Ohio – U.S. Military Academy senior running back Carlton Jones surpassed a college football legend, and the Black Knights of Army earned a most decisive win this season, Oct. 22, shutting out the University of Akron 20-0 in front of a cold and rain-soaked Rubber Bowl audience.

Jones led the Army charge, carrying the ball a career-high 38 times for 162 yards and two touchdowns. The effort pushed him past 1946 Heisman Trophy winner Glenn Davis to become Army's second all-time leading rusher, with 3,065 yards, second only to Mike Mayweather, who accumulated 4,299 yards on the ground during his career, from 1987 to 1990.

"I just feel privileged and honored to be up there with him (Davis)," Jones said.

In remembrance of Davis – who wore number 41, and who died last March at age 80 – Army players are wearing a small number 41 on the front of their jerseys this season.

After the game, Army coach Bobby Ross didn't hide his admiration for Jones and his star player's historic accomplishment.

"He's been banged up a lot this year. He's a workhorse," Ross said. "If you've got a thoroughbred, run him. He's a very complete back, a good receiver and a very fine blocker, which is why he's special to me."

Jones put the Black Knights on the board with 9:14 to play in the second quarter with a 9-yard touchdown run, starting their bid to snap an 11-game losing streak. The scoring drive was set up when safety Caleb Campbell picked off Akron quarterback Luke Getsy, who overshot his receiver on a hurried pass. Campbell returned the ball 22 yards to the Zips' 22-yard line.

The Black Knights' defense held the Zips to 232 total yards of offense as Army posted its first shutout since blanking Colgate 30-0, on Sept. 11, 1993.

"We got whooped," said Akron coach J.D. Brookhart. "This might have been one of the most frustrating days of my career. There was a lot that

didn't go right tonight and we need to find out why."

With 42 seconds left in the first half, and aided by a strong wind, kicker Justin Koenig booted a 49-yard field goal, putting Army up 10-0.

After the intermission, Akron had efficiently moved the ball down to the Army 25-yard line, but turned the ball over on downs. On Army's next possession, the Black Knights marched the ball 58 yards in 12 plays, culminating in a Koenig 35-yard field goal.

"Justin was sick before the game," Ross said. "He came in and played his best game of the year."

Army dominated the clock in the fourth quarter, sealing the deal when quarterback Zac Dahman connected with Jones for a 32-yard touchdown strike with 5:14 left to play to round out the scoring.

"It was a great, complete team effort. Tonight we put it all together, and I hope it marks a turn around in our season," Ross said.

(Cossel serves with the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.)



Photo by Spc. Ben Cossel

Army senior running back Carlton Jones carries the ball a career-high 38 times for 162 yards Oct. 22 as Army beat the University of Akron 20-0.

Army bobsledders make Team USA

Jack L. Gillund

Army News Service

CALGARY, Canada – Spc. Steve Holcomb and Spc. Michael Kohn moved one step closer to qualifying for the 2006 Winter Olympics during the U.S. National Bobsled Team Trials in October.

Holcomb, a combat engineer with the Utah National Guard, won the 2005 U.S. National four-man bobsled championship Oct. 23 at Canada Olympic Park. 2002 Olympic silver medalist Todd Hayes was his closest competitor during the two days of competitions that featured eight sleds.

"It was a little bit of a surprise," said U.S. Olympic Bobsled Team Head Coach Sgt. Tuffield "Tuffy" Latour. "Holcomb was just on fire this week and Todd [Hayes] was playing catch-up."

Holcomb, along with teammates Brock Kreitzburg, Curt Tomasevicz and 2002 Olympic silver medalist Bill Schuffenhauer placed first during day one of the trials. Their sled and the sled piloted by Hayes each had a best two-out-of-three combined time of 1 minute, 51.28 seconds.

Following tiebreaker rules, Holcomb was awarded first place for posting the fastest run time of the day – 55.50. No tiebreaker was needed during day two. Holcomb posted a combined time of 1:55.48 with teammates Kreitzburg, Tomasevicz and Ivan Ratcliff. His closest competitor, Hayes, was .34 seconds slower.

Placing third in the four-man bobsled trials, Kohn will pilot USA III during World Cup competitions. The 2002 Olympic bronze medal holder posted his quickest start time of the event on day two. He had a 5.18 second push after putting fellow WCAPer Capt. Lorenzo Smith in his sled.

Strong winds Oct. 16 at Lake Placid, N.Y., forced the postponement of two-man bobsled competitions. The final race was held Oct. 27 in Calgary – 12 days after day one. Coming into day two, Hayes and teammate Pavle

Jovanovic were first and Holcomb and Curt Tomasevicz were second. The team of Joe McDonald and Hoy Thurman III were in third. Kohn and Alex Sprague were in fourth.

"I know it's there, it's just a matter of making it happen," Kohn said about his drive to earn a spot on the U.S. national two-man bobsled team.

The change of venue didn't slow Hayes' momentum, though. He won day two with a combined time of 1:52.35. Kohn fared better, placing second with a combined time of 1:52.76.



Photo by Jack Gillund

Spc. Michael Kohn posted his fastest four-man push time of the 2005 U.S. National Bobsled Team trials after adding Capt. Lorenzo Smith to his sled. Kohn finished third in the competition Oct. 22 and 23 at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary, Canada.

Campbell youth selected for All-American Bowl

Patti Marquess

Army News Service

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. – Another addition has been made to the growing resume of Micah Johnson, Fort Campbell High School's standout senior defensive

tackle and linebacker.

Johnson has been selected to play in the 2006 U.S. Army All-American Bowl Jan. 7 at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

The official announcement of Johnson's selection came before an enthusiastic crowd at

a high school pep rally Oct. 28.

Representatives from the Army All-American Bowl Committee were on hand to make the announcement to the excited students, faculty and media personnel.

"Micah Johnson has made the cut, and he is one of the top 78 football student-athletes in this country," said J.J. Kusick, AAAB representative. "He is also being considered for PARADE All-America High School Player of the Year honors."

The PARADE award is high school football's equivalent to the Heisman Trophy.

"Football, like the Army, helps strengthen youth now and for the future," said Capt. Tony Taylor, U. S. Army representative. "Micah has demonstrated he has some of the same strengths that make good Soldiers – leadership, teamwork and commitment."

Johnson's father, Lt. Col. Nathaniel Johnson, commander 2nd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, could not attend the rally to hear the announcement of his son's selection to the AAAB because he is currently de-

ployed to Iraq. However, his mother Vicki Johnson, a clinical social worker at Fort Campbell's Blanchfield Army Community Hospital, was there to provide support for her son and share in the celebration.

"Our family is very proud and supportive of Micah," Vicki Johnson said. "He's a really good, well-rounded kid. We've taught him to put academics first and he loves to read and write poetry and music."

After the All-American announcement was made, Johnson was presented with an Army AAB football jersey and cap, which he donned immediately.

"I just want to thank everybody for their support, especially my family, coaches and teammates," Johnson said. "I'm going down there to do my thing and represent everybody the best I can."

Johnson was then presented with a plaque on behalf of the Department of Defense honoring his outstanding athletic accomplishments.

"I really just found out about all of this yesterday," Johnson said. "It's kind of overwhelming, but it really makes me feel good. It's good to know my

hard work has paid off."

At 6' 2", 260 pounds, Johnson is a formidable force on the playing field both offensively and defensively.

The U.S. Army is the annual sponsor of the All-American Bowl.

The bowl game showcases the talent and teamwork of the nation's highest-ranked high school football players.

Each year the U.S. Army All-American Bowl Selection Committee sets out to nominate the nation's top 400 high school football players for AAAB consideration.

Once this final review has been completed, the committee narrows the 400 nominees down to the final 78 athletes who will be invited to play in the annual AAAB.

These deserving 78 players will be divided into two teams to form the rosters for an East and a West team.

This classic AAAB East vs. West match-up will be played and televised live on NBC Jan. 7 at noon. (CST).

(Marques writes for the Fort Campbell Courier newspaper. Some information obtained from a USAAAB news release.)

Marine shown importance of gear

Marine Sgt.
Jerad W. Alexander
Marine Corps News

CAMP AL QA’IM, Iraq – The 3rd Mobile Assault Platoon took sniper fire all day as they conducted a relief in place with 1st Mobile Assault Platoon.

As Lance Cpl. Bradley Snipes, antitank assault man, 6th Marine Regiment, sat in the turret of his hummer watching his assigned sector behind his M-2 .50 caliber machine gun, it happened.

“We were doing a relief in place with (1st MAP) and had been taking sniper fire across the wadi all day,” Snipes, the 21-year-old, 2002 graduate of Brewer High School, said. “I was sitting in defilade, just my head above the turret when it felt like someone hit me in the head with a baseball bat.”

The sniper had shot Snipes square in the side of his head, hitting him directly in his Kevlar helmet.



Photo by Marine Sgt. Jerad Alexander

Lance Cpl. Bradley Snipes, antitank assaultman, 6th Marine Regiment, stands with the helmet that saved his life. During a recent mission, Snipes was shot in the head by an enemy sniper. The Kevlar he wore saved his life.

“I was in shock, I didn’t know what happened. I remember thinking ‘Am I still here?’” he said.

Snipes dropped down in the turret. It was at that point he realized he was, in fact, still

with the living thanks to his helmet. While inside the cab of the hummer, another shot tore through one of the handgrips of his .50 caliber machine gun, partially shattering it. The sniper then began focusing on the ve-

hicles tires.

After a moment, he composed himself and raised his 5-foot-11-inch frame back up into the turret to engage the sniper with his machine gun.

According to Cambridge, Ohio native 1st Lt. Jeremy S. Wilkinson, platoon commander, 3rd MAP, his platoon’s fire-power and a 500-pound bomb from overhead air support eventually silenced the sniper.

Bradley Snipes’ life, though, was saved by his gear.

“I was really surprised. It’s supposed to be able to stop a 7.62mm round at long distances. Well, it did,” he said. “The gear works, don’t doubt it. This is proof.”

Currently, Snipes, who is a veteran of combat operations in Afghanistan, is trying to keep his helmet as a memento.

“I want to put it in a case with a plaque that says ‘The little bullet that couldn’t.’”

Gunfighters save sniper in midst of battle

Cpl. James Hamel
Marine Corps News

CAMP AL QA’IM, Iraq – While conducting combat operations in northwest Iraq, scout snipers from 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment found themselves in a firefight with insurgents.

Separated by a small river, the Marines and enemy snipers traded fire until one of the scout snipers was seriously wounded. While firing from the third story of a building in the city of Sadat, the Marine was hit in the head by an enemy sniper round.

Luckily, the sniper was still alive, but he needed immediate medical attention. But, there was a problem. The closest casualty evacuation helicopters were miles away, and were still on the ground. If the Marine’s life was going to be saved, he needed to be evacuated right then.

The only helicopters in the area were an AH-1 Cobra and UH-1 Huey, from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369. They were there for close air support, but Huey pilots and air crew pride themselves on flying the most versatile aircraft in the Marine Corps. The “U” in the aircraft’s name stands for utility, and on that day, the Huey would have to live up to its namesake.

After the Marines on the ground radioed for the emergency casualty evacuation, the Huey landed under the watchful eye of the Cobra attack helicopter. The Marine was transported a short distance to meet the helicopter.

“The ground guys did an excellent job of getting the guy where he needed to be,” said Capt. Matthew Pinto, a Huey pilot. “There’s no way I could have landed in the area.”

Inside, the crew prepared the small troop transport space for a Marine they doubted could be saved.

“When we got the word that it was a head wound, we thought it was hopeless,” said

Gunnery Sgt. Russel Reale, the senior crew chief aboard the Huey. “But when we saw him, we expected him to make it.”

The wound was bad, but not severe enough to condemn the Marine to death. Still, they needed to get him out of the combat zone and to a hospital.

“Timely and effective communication between the ground

guys and us saved this guy’s life,” said 1st Lt. Page Payne, one of the Huey pilots who evacuated the injured Marine. “Within 15 minutes of us shooting (at insurgents), we had him, and were ready to go.”

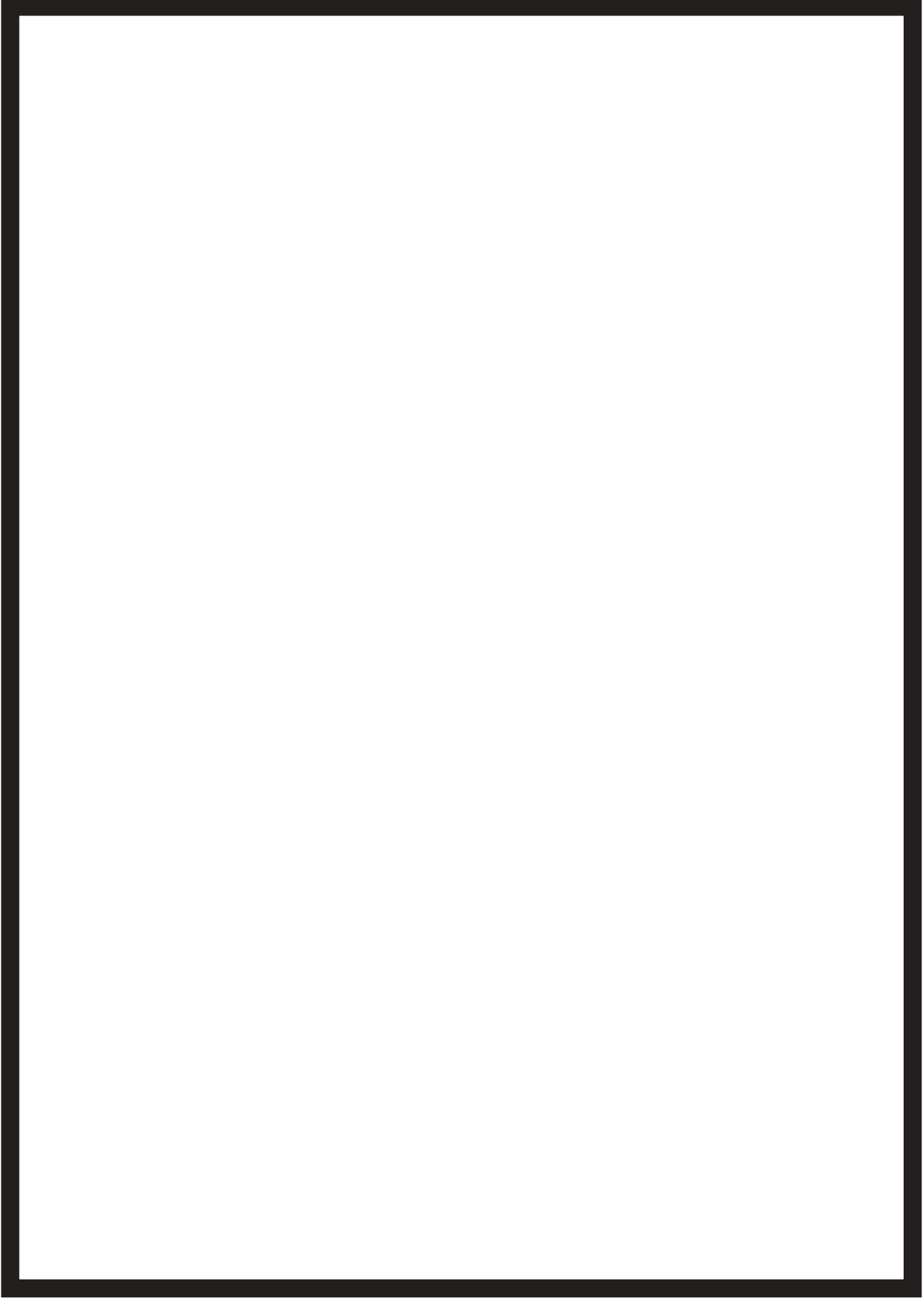
The mood inside the chopper was tense. The crew yelled for a corpsman to hop on the helicopter before it took off for

Camp Al Qa’im to deliver the Marine to a medical facility.

“The doctors were very appreciative because of how quick we got to him,” Reale said.

Now, the Marine is back in the United States, recovering, but doing fine, according to his peers.

“That’s all that matters,” said Pinto. “He’s alive.”



MI Group practices teamwork

Staff Sgt. Terrence L. Hayes
NSA/CSS Georgia Public Affairs

Today, winning the battle begins with intelligence and teamwork, which is taught at the very beginning – in Basic Combat Training at the Teamwork Development Course.

About 20 Soldiers from Headquarters Detachment, 116th Military Intelligence Group, enhanced their teamwork development skills at Fort Jackson Sept. 29.

The Soldiers learned how difficult, yet rewarding it can be to work as a team. Obstacles included getting supplies, ammunition and personnel across exploded and booby trapped bridges. Teams were broken down into squads and given a different squad leader each time, which gave Soldiers a chance to show their leadership skills.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Terrence L. Hayes
Spc. Ramon Suarez, Headquarters Detachment, 116th MI Group, crawls over a board to reach the other side of a bridge destroyed by enemy troops. Squads were given 10 minutes to devise a plan to overcome six obstacles.

Staff Sgt. Ronald Wilmer, HHD, 116th MI Group, was the officer in charge for the range. He said the training was realistic and showed how difficult it can be to work as a team under “rigorous conditions.”

“This is the first time we’ve trained in a team-oriented environment,” he said. “The course was geared toward real-world situations that made Soldiers think about the hurdle before them and the consequences of each individual step,” Wilmer said.

Wilmer set up the training at Fort Jackson through the Teamwork Development Course cadre. Wilmer and three other NCOs attended familiarization training the day prior to ensure a safe and realistic training event.

The primary objective of the Teamwork Development Course is to develop leaders and display teamwork at a squad level. Sgt. Antwaine Love said the course was challenging but gave Soldiers a chance

to work together, which normally doesn’t happen back in the rear.

“Most of the time we don’t work together unless it’s during PT,” he said. “This training gave us a chance to get to know each other better on a personal and professional level.”

The 116th MI rarely gets time to set up and execute field training such as this due to the extreme importance of its real-time mission. However, when leaders find time to place a training event on

the calendar, Soldiers are quick to jump at the opportunity at enhancing their warfighter skills.

“It’s very hard to get Soldiers to leave their sections because of their mission,” said 1st Sgt. James Thomas. “It’s hard not only on the detachment but on the sections. We make do though and still meet all required training. We just have to keep managing properly and getting the assistance from the sections and leaders who want their Soldiers to be competent in their jobs and warfighting skills.”

Sgt. Brandon Bagwell added that its fun to do something different every now and then.

“The course was great as far as developing leadership and teamwork skills,” he said. “It was extremely fun and beneficial for me. The competition made the course well-worth the experience.”

Although field training isn’t performed on a regular basis as is the case in tactical units, 116th MI Soldiers don’t give excuses for not being trained properly.

“We still meet all required training to standard,” said Thomas. “We don’t overlook training because of the mission’s importance. We work a little harder to make it happen and that makes these Soldiers a cut above the rest.”



Staff Sgt. Chastity Morin, Headquarters Detachment, 116th Military Intelligence Group, tight-ropes a bridge obstacle at the Teamwork Development Course at Fort Jackson, S.C.

“The course was geared toward real-world situations that made Soldiers think about the hurdle.”

Staff Sgt. Ronald Wilmer
116th MI Group



Photo illustration by Tammy Moehlman